

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 /092 W
-----112975 301312Z /45

R 291154Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7275
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 02999

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GE, SF, WA
SUBJECT: GDR REACTION TO WESTERN FIVE PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA

REF: (A) USUN 1102, (B) USUN 1645

1. THE GDR IS OPPOSED TO ELEMENTS OF THE WESTERN FIVE PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA AND, IN EMBASSY VIEW, IS UNLIKELY TO MODIFY THIS POSITION IN NEAR FUTURE. ON RECEIPT REFTELS EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY ASKED TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS AT MFA RESPONSIBLE FOR NAMIBIA, BUT WAS UNABLE TO GET APPOINTMENT UNTIL APR 28. ON THAT DATE POLOFF MET WITH KURT KUTSCHAN, DEPUTY HEAD OF MFA UN DEPARTMENT AND WITH MR. FRIEDRICH, AN ASSISTANT, RESPONSIBLE FOR UN AFRICAN ISSUES. POLOFF DELIVERED COPY OF REVISED PROPOSAL (REF A) AND MADE POINTS CONTAINED PARA 4 (REF B). POLOFF STATED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF FIVE WESTERN POWERS (UK, FRG, FRANCE, CANADA AND THE US) AND THAT THESE GOVERNMENTS CONSIDERED THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH HAD BEEN DRAWN UP AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE PARTIES PRINCIPALLY INVOLVED, A REASONABLE AND FAIR SETTLEMENT OF THE NAMIBIA QUESTION. THESE GOVERNMENTS HOPED THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD MEET SHORTLY TO
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CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL.

2. KUTSCHAN SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE WESTERN FIVE PROPOSAL, AND THAT THE GDR POSITION DIFFERED FROM THAT REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSAL ON TWO IMPORTANT POINTS. THE GDR INSISTED ON TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM NAMIBIA, ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE

IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS REMAIN IN NAMIBIA. THE SECOND POINT OF DIFFERENCE WAS THE GDR'S INSISTENCE ON THE "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" AND "POLITICAL UNITY" OF NAMIBIA, PRESUMABLY AN ALLUSION TO WALVIS BAY ISSUE. KUTSCHAN REFERRED TO THE SPEECH BY THE GDR PERMREP AT THE UN AS A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF GDR POLICY ON THE ISSUE. HE ASKED POLOFF WHETHER HE KNEW IF SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD CONVENE. POLOFF SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THAT POINT. AT CONCLUSION KUTSCHAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT AND PROMISED TO EXAMINE NEW SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL CAREFULLY BUT DID NOT IN ANY WAY SUGGEST THAT THE GDR WOULD ALTER ITS VIEWS.

3. THE GDR PRESS AND TELEVISION HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE UN NAMIBIA DEBATE WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON STATEMENTS BY THE SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES. AN EDITORIAL IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON APRIL 28 DESCRIBED THE WESTERN POWERS PROPOSAL AS A MANEUVER COORDINATED WITH THE VORSTER REGIME INTENDED TO PREVENT THE CURRENT UN SESSION FROM REACHING AGREEMENT AND OBTAINING TRUE INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA. THE EDITORIAL STATES THAT THE IMPERIALIST STATES WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO "PLUNDER THE NATURAL RESOURCES" OF NAMIBIA THROUGH A "NEO-COLONIALIST" SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. OTHER MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE NAMIBIA DEBATE AND OF THE WESTERN

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FIVE PROPOSAL IS IN THE SAME VEIN.

4. COMMENT: THE GDR IS COMMITTED TO UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT OF THE SWAPO POSITION ON NAMIBIA QUESTIONS AND IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE ANY STEP WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO BREAK RANKS WITH SWAPO. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN02999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780185-0033
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978042/aaaaabhn.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0d78bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 1102, 78 USUN NEW YORK 1645
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2857182
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR REACTION TO WESTERN FIVE PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA
TAGS: PGOV, GC, SF, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0d78bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014